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December 1983

paperboard packaging

Annual Industry Calendar

Smurfit Success Story

AN HBJ PUBLICATION

paper board packaging

DECEMBER 1983 VOLUME 68, NO. 12

On the Cover:

Inside this issue you'll find *Paperboard Packaging*'s annual industry calendar. It will provide you with all the dates and locations of next year's major meetings, conferences, seminars and conventions.

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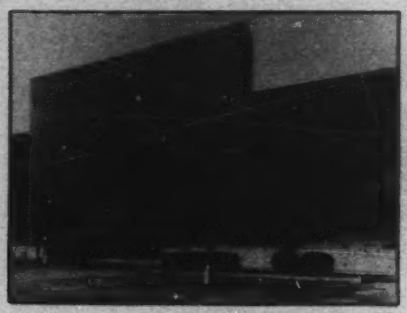

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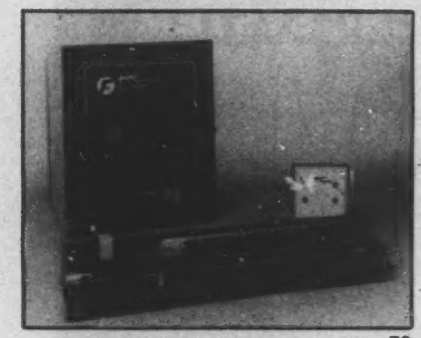

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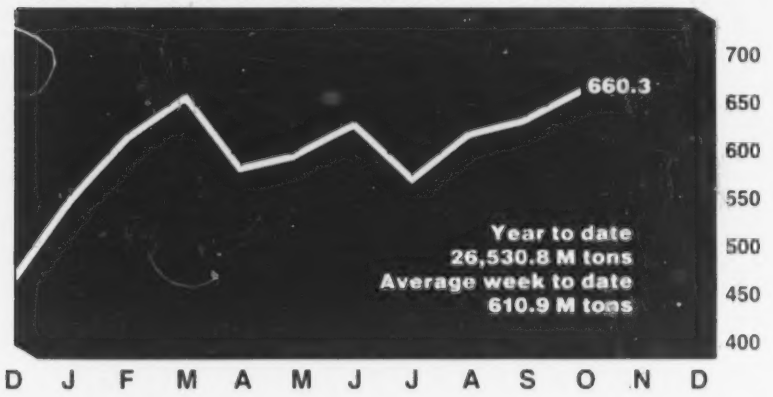
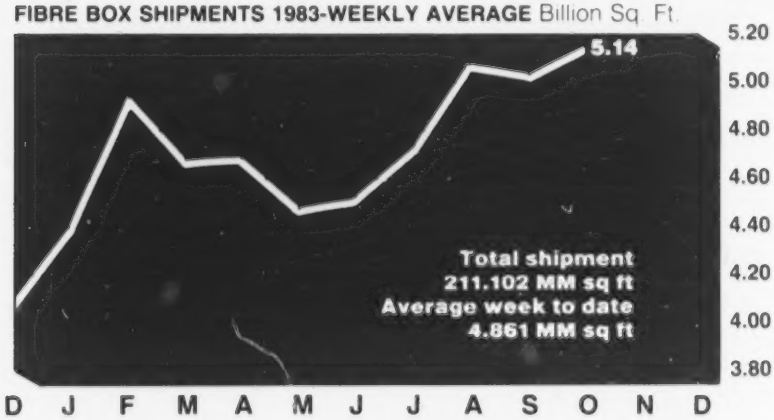
INDUSTRY STATISTICS

PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE 1 000 Tons



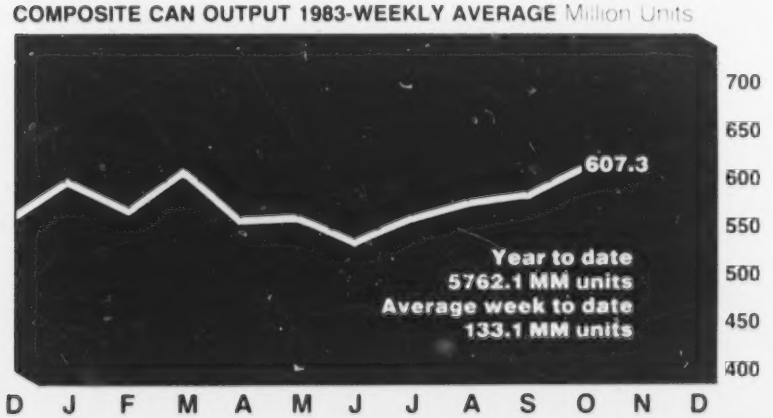
PAPERBOARD MILL OPERATIONS:
The first 10 months of 1983 ended with total average-week board volume 8.7% up from last year, which had been down 9% from '81, which was up 3.4% from '80, which was down 1.2% from 1979. This year's October-end volume was less than 1% below the 1981 all-time high for that point. However, the recent recession began in fourth-quarter '81. Thus, the 1979 final tonnage remains a record, though '83 volume is now running well ahead of '79, and a new record may be set. The improvement, as noted below, is in both containerboards and boxboards.

FIBRE BOX SHIPMENTS 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE Billion Sq. Ft.



PAPERBOARD-TYPE PRODUCTION:
In October, 2924.0 M tons of board output (15.7% up from '82) comprised 2169.1 M of containerboards (17.1% up) and 754.9 M of boxboards (11.9% up), as projected from the American Paper Institute's "production by furnish" data. This relative rise in boxboard volume follows a rather long stagnation in which the containerboards reached a distorted tonnage ratio above 3-to-1. October provided this year's best average-week boxboard production, possibly reflecting a level of box demand that presages a good Holiday retail climate.

COMPOSITE CAN OUTPUT 1983-WEEKLY AVERAGE Million Units



RIGID PAPER BOXES:
Set-up billings are running some 9% ahead of 1982, which had been 7% down from '81, which was 10% up from '80. This continues to reflect the general business upturn. However, the record also continues to display the industry's most remarkable geographical variations. Business for the year ranges, month-to-month, from double-digit improvements in some regions to similar declines in others. Some portion of the billings advance may be due to higher unit prices, similar to those of folding cartons, which go up about 10-12% per year.